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From: Shore, Berry
Sent: Thur 7/21/2016 12:49:30 PM
Subject: PFOA/POFS Clips

Cuomo administration to begin giving Congress Hoosick Falls documents

Matthew Hamilton

July 20, 2016 at 5:13 PM

Albany Times Union

This post has been updated with information from a letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A congressional committee has granted Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration an extension of their deadline to turn over documents related to the Hoosick Falls water contamination crisis that the committee is seeking as it investigates the issue.

The administration said on Wednesday that both parties have agreed that the Executive Chamber will release the documents on a rolling basis, with the first batch set to go out next week.

"We will gladly share our experience in New York to clarify the facts and the challenges facing states as they work to address contaminants that are unregulated by the federal government," Cuomo spokesman James Allen said of House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee's request. "As part of those efforts, we are working with the committee and providing assistance as it fulfills its responsibilities. As is usual for requests of this volume, the committee has granted an extension and we will begin providing documents next week on a rolling basis."

In a letter sent July 6, the committee asked for all documents and communications to or from any state employee — as well as to or from any employees of the governor's office — related to Hoosick Falls, PFOA and perfluorooctanoic acid.

The committee also requested a similar trove of documents and communications from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

It provided a deadline of Wednesday at 5 p.m. for both the state and EPA. Though the committee has subpoena power, the requests did not carry the force of law.

In Wednesday letters to oversight committee Chairman Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and Subcommittee on the Interior Chairwoman Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyoming, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator Joel Beauvais outlined the agency's timeline of events and said it has begun searching for the requested documents. Beauvais also pointed the chairs to documents already uploaded to FOIAonline.

"The EPA recognizes the importance of the committee's need to obtain information necessary to perform its oversight functions, and is committed to continuing to work with your staff on how to best accommodate the committee's interests in these documents," Beauvais wrote. "We anticipate providing additional responsive documents."

Multiple attempts to reach a committee spokesperson were unsuccessful.

In seeking the documents, the committee cited a number of reports that indicate that officials from the local level on up were aware for more than a year of PFOA pollution of the Hoosick Falls municipal water supply but did not warn residents to stop drinking the water.

"The Committee is seeking information as to why the state and county delayed in acknowledging the health risks of PFOA exposure in Hoosick Falls and continued to provide the public with false and confusing information," the committee's letter to the governor stated.

PFOA contamination has not only ravaged the Village of Hoosick Falls' water, but it also has impacted private wells in the Town of Hoosick and nearby Petersburg. Factories in that portion have eastern Rensselaer County used that chemical for decades.

Since the House committee made its outreach, the state Assembly and Senate have announced they will convene hearings on water quality issues. The Senate will hold one of its sessions in Hoosick Falls.

Deadline for Cuomo Administration to send PFOA contamination correspondence to Washington

By Joe Gullo

Updated: July 20, 2016, 4:42 pm

ABC News Channel 10 – Albany

ALBANY, N.Y. (NEWS10) – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has to turn over correspondence between his administration and the EPA over the PFOA contamination crisis on Wednesday.

He has until 5 p.m. to do so.

The Federal government is looking into the contamination in Hoosick Falls.

The House Committee on Oversight sent two letters claiming the EPA, state, and county officials knew the water was poisoned, but didn't tell people to stop drinking it until nearly a year later.

Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin told NEWS10 ABC that his constituents deserve to know the truth.

Congressional committee grants extension on PFOA paperwork

By WRGB Staff

Wednesday, July 20th 2016

WRGB Channel 6 News – Albany

ALBANY-- Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office has confirmed an extension, granted by a congressional committee, on the time it's required to hand over documents regarding the PFOA water contamination crisis in communities like Hoosick Falls.

Officials in the administration say they will start releasing those documents on a rolling basis, starting next week.

The House Oversight Committee has asked for any state level correspondence, related to the investigation into water contaminated by that dangerous chemical

Gov. Cuomo urged to sign legislation allowing residents to file personal claims in water contamination crisis

By Joe Gullo

Updated: July 20, 2016, 4:42 pm

ABC News Channel 10 - Albany

ALBANY, N.Y. (NEWS10) – New York Senator Kathy Marchione is calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to sign legislation that would allow people in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg to file personal claims.

Right now, there is a statute of limitations that prevents people from taking action.

New legislation extend that statute to three years in areas designated as a state or a federal superfund site.

“I ask that you sign this bill without delay to ensure that my constituents have their day in court and see justice,” Sen. Marchione, (R, C, IP) 43rd Senate District, wrote in a letter to Gov. Cuomo.

The legislation passed the Assembly on May 24 by a vote of 132-7 and unanimously passed the Senate on June 16 by a vote of 62-0.

Schumer to Air National Guard: Accelerate PFOS Clean Up Timeline ASAP

by Yvonne Marcotte, Epoch Times

Last Updated: July 20, 2016 7:11 pm

Epoch Times

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer called on the Director of the Air National Guard on July 20 to immediately release an expedited timeline for the identification and cleanup of any and all PFOS pollution. Toxic PFOS, possibly from Stewart Air Base, has contaminated the City of Newburgh’s drinking water supply.

PFOS—perfluorooctanesulfonic acid—is a persistent environmental toxin believed to be responsible for a wide range of health problems, including cancer. Used in the fire-suppressing foam that military bases use to train soldiers in putting out plane fires, PFOS contamination has been found near other air bases.

In his letter to Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, director of the Air National Guard, Schumer said the Air National Guard committed to releasing a timeline and to award a contract for an interim site investigation. They have yet to deliver on that promise.

The Air National Guard owes the people of Newburgh an expedited timeline and schedule.

— Sen. Charles Schumer

“The toxicity of PFOS and the justified worry it has caused in Newburgh means that business as usual is not good enough; the Air National Guard owes the people of Newburgh an expedited timeline and schedule. And waiting until the fall of this year is simply unacceptable,” Schumer wrote.

Schumer’s letter was preceded by a letter from Col. Keith MacDonald, director of logistics and installations for the Air Force, to Newburgh Mayor Judy Kennedy, in which he wrote of the Air Force’s possible responsibility for contaminated water in the City of Newburgh. The letter, obtained by the Mid-Hudson News, stated that the Air Force must first receive a report from the state Department of Environmental Conservation of what sampling it has done to measure a possible release of PFOS from the base.

MacDonald also wrote that the Air Force intends to let a contract by the end of July for sampling of soil and groundwater at 17 release points. That work, McDonald wrote, is expected to begin in September.

“If we confirm a release has occurred from Stewart ANGB [Air National Guard base], the ANG will work with the City of Newburgh and local, state and federal officials to determine the optimal mitigation actions,” MacDonald wrote.

It was revealed on May 2, 2016 that Silver Stream and Washington Lake in the City of Newburgh were found to contain PFOS. Washington Lake had been Newburgh’s primary source of water, and it began purchasing water from the New York City Catskill aqueduct.

Following the discovery of PFOS in Newburgh, Schumer, with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, called on the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) to immediately provide testing and planning assistance to Newburgh.

In his July 20 letter, Schumer told the Air National Guard that mitigating the situation cannot be handled as business as usual. “The potential human toxicity of this chemical, the fear and uncertainty that its presence spreads and its presence in a vital drinking water source strongly argues for an expedited approach to source identification and clean-up.”

“I understand that there is a standard process, and rules concerning bids,” he said, “but in this case, business as usual is just not good enough.”

Saint-Gobain, Honeywell submit plans to study PFOA sites

By Edward Damon

Posted: 07/19/2016 10:26:22 PM EDT

Bennington Banner

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. — The companies being held responsible for PFOA contamination have submitted work plans that state officials say are necessary to determine the full extent of pollution.

Honeywell International announced on Monday that it would start sampling soil and water this week from two former manufacturing sites where the man-made chemical could have been used. The sites on John Street and River Road were once home to AlliedSignal Laminate Systems Inc., a predecessor of the Delaware company.

The investigation includes field surveys and sampling at the manufacturing sites, as well as adjacent private properties, Honeywell announced on Monday. Samples will include groundwater as well as water and soil from surface water.

A public meeting will be held at the HAYC3 Armory before the investigation expands to include other private properties near the manufacturing sites. The date and time was not announced.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation last week approved official site characteristics work plans for both sites, according to a Honeywell spokesperson.

Similar plans and studies for Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics' current sites on McCaffrey and Liberty Streets are now being reviewed by DEC, according to a spokesperson for that company.

"Due to the McCaffrey Street site designation as a New York State Superfund site, there are additional steps to be taken before work can begin," a spokesperson said in a statement.

The DEC will oversee the development and implementation of the work plans and investigations, an agency spokesperson said in a statement.

Both Saint-Gobain and Honeywell signed consent orders with DEC and are required to investigate contamination from PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid. The chemical was used by industries for decades when manufacturing the nonstick coating Teflon. It turned up in public and private drinking supplies in the town of Hoosick and Hoosick Falls.

One order signed by Honeywell covers sites on John Street/3 Lyman St. and River Road (Route 22). The former Oak Materials Group owned the properties from the 1960s until merging with AlliedSignal in 1986. AlliedSignal, an aerospace and engineering company, merged with Honeywell in 1999 to form Honeywell International.

A second consent order requires that both Honeywell and Saint-Gobain investigate 14 McCaffrey St. and 1 Liberty St. AlliedSignal formerly operated at both sites. Saint-Gobain has owned both since 1999.

Both Honeywell and Saint-Gobain were required to submit a work plan for the Liberty Street site, and a work plan and remedial investigation feasibility study for McCaffrey Street. The latter is classified as a Class 2 hazardous waste site and, according to DEC, poses a "significant threat to the public health or environment."

"Honeywell provided input on the work plans for both sites, but as the current owner of the facilities, Saint-Gobain will take the lead in performing the work," a spokesperson for Saint-Gobain said in a statement.

Technicians for Honeywell have begun field surveys, the company announced on Monday. The work includes collecting groundwater and soil samples from five places at the .6 acre John Street facility, and 11 from the 11.42 acre River Road site.

Samples will be taken from five other spots around John Street and about 20 around the River Road site.

Contact Ed Damon at 802-447-7567, ext. 111.

PFOA, PFOS Likely Hazardous to Immune System: Scientists

By Pat Rizzuto , From Chemical Regulation Reporter®

July 19, 2016

Bloomberg BNA

Two chemicals that have made thousands of industrial and consumer products stick-, heat- and grease-resistant also are presumed to be hazardous to people's immune systems, a scientific panel said July 19.

A panel of epidemiologists, toxicologists, microbiologists and other scientists critiqued and then supported the National Toxicology Program's draft analysis that concluded perfluorooctanoic acid, more commonly known as PFOA, and perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, are presumed to be immune hazards to humans.

Legal, Water System Interest

The scientific panel's support for the toxicology program's conclusions come as the DuPont Co. and its spinoff, the Chemours Co., have been found liable in the first two of 3,500 lawsuits in which people claim their exposures to PFOA caused cancer and certain other health problems.

The panel's backing also comes as health officials in Alabama, New York, Pennsylvania and other states are investigating people's exposure to both chemicals in drinking water sources.

Just two months ago, on May 19, the Environmental Protection Agency released voluntary guidance for local water systems, states and others concerned about the highly fluorinated chemicals.

If drinking water concentrations for both PFOA and PFOS are kept below the EPA's benchmark of 0.07 micrograms per liter or 70 parts per trillion for a lifetime, the agency would not expect people's health to be harmed.

The voluntary benchmark level applied to the chemicals individually or in combination.

Products once made with chemicals produced through the use of PFOA and PFOS included food packaging, lubricants, water-resistant coatings and aqueous fire-fighting foams.

Production Shifted to Asia

Chemical manufacturers have stopped making both chemicals in the United States and much of Europe, Andrew Rooney deputy director of the toxicology program's Office of Health Assessment and Translation, said as he presented an overview of the program's draft conclusions.

Discharges of PFOA and PFOS also have been reduced as have concentrations of the chemicals in people's bodies, he said.

Yet, production of both chemicals appears to have shifted to Asia, Rooney said.

Another source of exposure may remain, he said. It is unclear whether certain chemicals called telomer alcohols, which can break down into PFOA and PFOS, have been eliminated or reduced, Rooney said.

Neither PFOA or PFOS degrade under typical environmental conditions, the toxicology program's draft systematic review said.

"Once in surface water, apparent half-lives of PFOS and PFOA are 41 and 92 years respectively. Estimated half-lives in the human body are also long, ranging from two to eight years," the review found.

Similar Conclusion, Separate Considerations

The toxicology program and the peer review panel examined the scientific evidence on immune suppression separately for each chemical, even though similar conclusions were reached.

The strongest evidence that both chemicals could be hazardous to the human immune system comes from animal studies that showed the chemicals reduced the ability of large Y-shaped proteins, called antibodies, to fight viruses, bacteria and other microorganisms, the toxicology program and scientific panel agreed.

No one spoke during the panel's public comment period, although 3M and consultants working for it; the Endocrine Disruption Exchange, an non-governmental organization; and Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, submitted comments before the meeting.

Use of Systematic Review

Each of these commenters praised the toxicology program's systematic review as did the members of the peer review panel.

The systematic approach helped readers to clearly understand what science the program considered and the reasons some scientific studies provided higher levels of confidence while others were graded more moderate or lower priority in the program's final conclusions, the commenters and panel members said.

Several 3M commenters and others, however, said they had less confidence about some studies than did the toxicology program.

The peer review panel also raised concerns about some lines of evidence. For example, the toxicology program had concluded that animal studies showed a high level of support that PFOA cause allergic responses in the airways. The panel said the evidence provided only moderate support for that conclusion.

The panel, however, agreed with the bottom-line conclusion that PFOA and PFOS both could harm the human immune system.

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For More Information

The National Toxicology Program draft systematic review, comments and other information are available at <http://src.bna.com/gVS>.

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Residents sign up for PFOA blood testing

By By KIMBERLY HOUGHTON

July 19. 2016 9:29PM

New Hampshire Union Leader

LITCHFIELD — Numerous residents concerned about their health say in light of water contamination problems in southern New Hampshire, they will take advantage of free blood testing.

“We’ve lived here a long time, so there is not much we can do now,” Linda Linehan said of the elevated levels of perfluorooctanoic acid discovered in many private wells near Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, and in some public wells serviced by the Merrimack Village District Water Works.

Linehan said she plans to have her blood tested for perfluorochemicals, but is not panicked or worried about the potential exposure to contamination from drinking water.

Still, Linehan said she is pleased that the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is offering the free blood testing to residents affected by the water problems.

“I’m tired of brushing my teeth at the kitchen sink,” said Judith Richardson, another resident receiving bottled water because of private well contamination in her neighborhood.

She also plans to have blood samples taken, explaining it is better to know the facts and be educated about the exposure.

State officials have contracted with Southern New Hampshire Medical Center to have several locations available where blood can be drawn to test for PFOA.

“They are working with us so that we can implement this program,” Jeff Myers, commissioner of DHHS, said of the hospital.

Residents in Amherst, Bedford, Litchfield, Manchester and Merrimack who utilize private wells and are receiving bottled water because of PFOA contamination above 70 parts per trillion are eligible for free blood testing.

To date, 588 wells have been sampled within a 1.5-mile radius of the Saint-Gobain plant in Merrimack; 171 of those wells — or about 30 percent — are above the state standard for PFOA.

In addition, the state is providing bottled water to 480 properties in the region, according to Brandon Kernan of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

During a public meeting at Campbell High School on Tuesday, officials outlined several steps that must be followed for residents seeking blood testing.

“This is a specialized test. This is not a routine test that labs are used to drawing,” said Dr. Ben Chan, state epidemiologist.

DHHS is working with SNHMC to provide instruction, equipment and training for individuals drawing blood. Residents seeking blood tests must register online with the DHHS, and answer an online questionnaire about potential exposure to perfluorochmicals.

After that, DHHS will mail a laboratory requisition form to those hoping to undergo blood tests, which can then be taken to eligible blood-draw centers in the area.

The blood will be processed and sent to the state’s public health lab before being shipped out of state to be tested. Results will then be sent to individuals, who are encouraged to share the findings with their health care providers.

“There is no treatment for PFC exposure,” explained Chan, adding it could take several months for the blood test results to come back.

The state is working with Saint-Gobain on a potential agreement for a water system extension to provide clean water to areas with contaminated wells.

State officials are hoping that possible interim and long-term solutions will be finalized sometime in August.

“We feel pretty safe. The state has been very proactive about this,” said Bill Smith of Litchfield, who lives next to the high school and continues to drink the tap water at his home. “I drink it all the time — I will drink it until it kills me,” he joked.

While it is a serious matter, Smith said there really isn't much that can be done about exposure that occurred in the past. Smith said he is not sure if he will opt to have his blood tested.

Processing PFOA Blood Tests Will Take Months, Warns State Epidemiologist

By Emily Corwin

Jul 19, 2016

New Hampshire Public Radio

Residents in Southern NH exposed to high levels of PFOA can begin getting their blood tested, but those blood tests will likely take months to be processed.

State Epidemiologist Ben Chan told residents gathered at Campbell High auditorium in Litchfield that if they qualify for bottled water, then they also qualify for blood tests.

The tests will be drawn locally, but, he says, they have to be sent out of state for processing and will likely take months to get back.

"Few labs will do the testing," he told residents, "and this situation is occurring all around the country, and so these few labs are getting requests from multiple other sources."

Officials from the state's Environmental Services department also updated residents on efforts to extend public water sources to homes with contaminated wells in a number of nearby towns. The state is still in negotiations with the likely polluter, Saint Gobain, on funding for the project. If it proceeds, it would likely be completed in December.

PFOS/PFOA Water Contamination : Chalfont area well closed after contaminated water detected

Unwell Water Series

By James Boyle, staff writer

Jul 19, 2016

Bucks County (PA) Courier Times

Chalfont, New Britain and New Britain Township have become the latest communities to shut down a public well because of contamination.

Aqua Pennsylvania alerted residents Friday that test results from one of three wells showed a high level of perfluorinated compounds. The well contained 68 ppt of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), according to a company statement. The level is below the 70 ppt health advisory threshold set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in May.

The result prompted Aqua Pennsylvania to take the well offline, leaving it as a backup for a fire emergency. An Aqua spokeswoman declined to identify the location of the well, citing

"We were concerned about how the system would perform this past weekend with the heat," said Donna Alston, communications manager for Aqua Pennsylvania. "The two remaining wells provided an adequate supply in the extraordinary heat."

A retest of the tainted well is underway; results will take about a month, said Alston.

The water company is close to an agreement with North Penn Water Authority, which would be a backup source and provide water based on demand.

Public and private wells in Warminster, Warrington, Horsham and Doylestown Township have been shut down after water tests showed high amounts of PFOS and PFOA in the past two years. The source of the chemicals has not been officially determined.

The chemicals' presence in firefighting foams commonly used for decades at naval air bases has led many to point fingers at the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and the active Horsham Air Guard Station, where many of the contaminated wells are located.

The U.S. Navy has agreed to pay at least \$19 million for filtration systems on the public wells, provide bottled water to affected residents until their drinking water is cleared and pay for private well users to get connected to the public system.

The answer to where the chemicals came from is not as apparent for communities like Chalfont and New Britain. The boroughs and New Britain Township are about 8 miles from the nearest military base — the Horsham Air Guard Station.

The Chalfont-New Britain system is not part of Aqua Pennsylvania's larger Neshaminy Creek Plant, which is in Middletown and fed by the Neshaminy Creek. Two weeks ago, the water company announced that 14 ppt of PFOS and 6.6 ppt of PFOA were present in water tested at the Neshaminy Creek plant, which serves approximately 38,000 customers in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

"Chalfont is a satellite system," said Alston. "It's a standalone and not part of the Neshaminy Creek system."

An expert studying the movement of PFCs in the environment told this news organization two weeks ago that PFOS and PFOA are not naturally occurring and can come from a variety of sources, such as military bases, landfills and wastewater plants.

"(The chemicals) are coming from somewhere ... not all groundwater is going to have these compounds in it," said Christopher Higgins, an associate professor with the Colorado School of Mines' department of civil and environmental engineering.

Plaintiffs in New Hampshire PFOA Water Contamination Class Action Suit Move to Remand Claims

July 20, 2016

CONCORD, N.H. — Plaintiffs asserting PFOA water contamination claims have moved to remand their suit, contending in part that the defendant chose to operate its facility in New Hampshire “in part to avoid Vermont’s stricter environmental requirements which would have limited the amount of PFOA released into the environment.”

In the July 11 motion filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire, the plaintiffs additionally maintained that the federal court can declined to exercise jurisdiction over the class action suit when greater than two-thirds of the members of all proposed classes are citizens of the state ...

Associated Documents

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DuPont found liable in second of 3400 cancer cases

20 July 2016

By Rebecca Trager

Chemistry World

US chemicals giant DuPont must pay more than \$5 million (£3.8 million) to an Ohio man whose testicular cancer has been linked to drinking water contaminated with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA; C8) from a DuPont plant in West Virginia, a federal jury ruled on 6 July. A few days later, the same jurors directed DuPont to pay another \$500,000 in punitive damages to the plaintiff, David Freeman.

DuPont is accused of releasing hundreds of tonnes of PFOA into the Ohio River over decades. This is the company's second loss in a series of bellwether personal injury lawsuits brought by individuals who developed one of six diseases linked to PFOA that they claim were the result of drinking water tainted by DuPont's West Virginia Teflon factory. Last year, a jury awarded \$1.6 million to an Ohio woman who contracted kidney cancer. There are 3400 similar cases awaiting trial.

DuPont says it will appeal the Freeman verdict because it resulted from trial rulings that 'misrepresented the findings of an independent science panel and misled jurors about the risks of C8 exposure'. The company claims that the same thing happened in the previous trial, which is now on appeal. If Freeman's award stands, the expectation has been that it will be paid by DuPont spinoff Chemours. However, Chemours questions its financial responsibility.

Cynthia Salitsky, a Chemours spokesperson, suggested that there are 'substantial legal grounds' to challenge the jury's ruling, and she said this type of litigation could take many years to resolve. 'DuPont is the named defendant in each of these cases and is directly liable for any judgment,' Salitsky stated.
